Setting up of Super Thermal Power Stations

579. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Site Selection Committee appointed by Government, in its report 1976, had recommended six suitable sites for setting up Super Thermal Power Stations in Singrauli, Nayvelli, Ramagundam, Korba, Farrakha and Talcher;

(b) whether the work in all the places has been taken up excepting Talcher in Orissa; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the same and by when a final decision in this regard will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) to (c) In their Report, the Committee set up for selection of sites for large thermal power stations had suggested 11 sites, including Talcher, for setting up large Thermal Power Stations. At present, the sites at Singrauli, Korba, Ramagundam and Farakka are being developed by the National Thermal Power Corporation and that at Neyveli by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

Projects are taken up for execution after all necessary inputs are tied up and various clearances, such as from the environmental and forest angles, are available. The proposed Talcher Super Thermal Power Project has been techno-economically approved by the Central Electricity Authority and awaits environmental and forest clearance.

Demand for superior grade coal in Orissa

580. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on account of massive industrialisation programme undertaken in the State of Orissa, the demand for Superior Grade Coal in that State has considerably increased when the availability of superior grade coal has gone down from 6,37,000 tonnes in 1976 to 3,79,000 tonnes in 1985;

(b) whether Coal India Limited have planned an increased production of Superior Grade Coal in both the Coalfields in the State; and

(c) whether Coal India Limited propose to earmark additional funds to open new projects for mining superior grade coals and for investment in better sand gathering and storing facilities in order to increase production in the existing mines?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the increased demand of superior grade coal in Orissa, Coal India Limited have planned an increase in the production of superior grade coal from the current level of about 25 lakh tonnes per annum to 29 lakh tonnes in 89-90 and 36 lakh tonnes in 94-95. For achieving this, steps have been taken for improvement of production from the existing collieries and also to take up new projects. The facilities for sand gathering and also the sand stowing arrangements for the existing collieries are also being improved by providing additional inputs. Necessary funds are being provided for undertaking improvements in the existing systems as well as for opening up of new projects.